

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00778 242027Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 /088 W
-----124025 242028Z /53

R 221540Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9192
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 778

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MR, GH
SUBJ: GHANAIAAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS MAURITANIA

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 282(NOTAL), (B) ACCRA 1830

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: SUMMARY: GHANAIAAN FOREIGN MINISTER
SPENT FOUR DAYS IN MAURITANIA ON FRIENDLY IF UNEVENTFUL FAMILIA-
RIZATION VISIT. FINAL COMMUNIQUE REFERRED TO DESIRABILITY FOR
NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS WITHON OAU FRAMEWORK, BUT MAKDE NO REFERENCE
TO WESTERN SAHARA. END SUMMARY

2. DURING GHANAIAAN FOREIGN MINISTER COLONEL R.J. FELL'S
MASH 18-21 VISIT TOMAURITANIA, HE WAS RECEIED BY PRESIDENT,
HONORED AT DINNERS GIVEN BY PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER AND
MADE VISITS TO BOUTLIMIT (PRESIDENT'S HOMETOWN) ANDPORT CITY OF
NOUADHIBOU. AT NOUAHDIBOU HE REVIEW UNIT OF MAURITANIA NAVY
AND VISITEDMINING AND FISHING INDUSTRY INSTALLATIONS. WHILE
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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 00778 242027Z

AT NOUADHIBOU, QLLI DELEGATION WAS TAKEN ON SHORT TRIP TO
VILLAGE OF LAGUERA WHERE ROUTE WAS LINED WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN
AND PARTY FAITHFUL WHO PROVIDED ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME. VISIT
INCLUDED SEVERAL WORKING SESSIONS WHICH CONCENTRATED ON FISHING
PROBLEMS. FINAL JOINT COMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED CREATION OF PERMA-
NENT COMMISSION TO DISCUSS COOPERATION PARTICULARLY IN COMMERCE,
INVSTMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION AND CULTURE. BOTH

GIRM FONMINISTER HAMDI MOUKNASS AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY,
FISHING AND MERCHANT MARINE ABDALLAHI ISMAEL
WERE INVITED TO VISIT GHANA. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE WAS SILENT ON
WESTERN SAHARA ISSUE MAKING ONLY BRIEFEST REFERENCE TO UNSPSCIFIED
AREAS OF TENSION AND DESIRABILITY OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
WITHIN OAU FREMEWORK. THIS SILENCE CONTRASTS WITH OFFICIAL
COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING JANUARY 1978 VISIT OF GAMBIA FOREIGN
MINISTER, WHEREIN GAMBIA CONGRATULTED MAURITANIA ON ITS REUNI-
FICATION AND "AFFORDED IT ITS TOTAL SUPPORT/ (REF A), AND TENDS
TO SUPPORT PREVIOUS INDICATIONS OF GHANAIAAN NON-SUPLVRT OF
MOROCCAN/MAUGZTANIAN POSITION (KEUUB). MAURITANIAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIAL WHO ESCORTED DELEGATION TOLD ME THAT WHILE
EVERYONE THOUGHT COLONEL FELLI WAS PLEASANT ENOUGH AS MILITARY
OFFICERS GO, THE NUMBER TWO IN THE DELEGATION, PERMANENT
SCERETARY IN CHARGE OF POLICICAL AFFAIRS SEKIL, WAS EXTREMELY
IMPESSIVE DIPLOMAT.

4. VISIT TO LAGUERA IS APPARENTLY BECOMING PART OF STANDARD
ITINERARY FOPSVISITING DIQVYARIIB (SEE RSR A). SNYLB
VILLAGE, WHILE LACKING IN SCENIC ATTRACTIONS IS LOCATED A
FEW KILOMETERS ACROSS CAP BLANC PTFZGZLA IN WHAT WAS FORMZGWY
SPANISH SAHARA. ALTHOUGH MAURITANIANS ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION
THAT VISIT TO AREA IMPLIES RECOGNITION OF THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, THEY
DO LANT TO DEMONSTRATE TO VISITORS THAT AREA HAS BEEN PEACEFULLY
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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 00778 242027Z

RUNTEGRATED INTO MAURITANIA. END CONFIDENTIAL

FARLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NOUAKC00778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-0755, D780129-0436
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780337/aaaabfjn.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 225dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NOUAKCHOTT 282, 78 ACCRA 1830
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3239274
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANAIAI FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS MAURITANIA
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MR, GH, (FELLI, ROGER J)
To: ACCRA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/225dc1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014